

Docket No.: 216934US8/phm

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Shunichi SEKIGUCHI, et al.

SERIAL NUMBER: 10/003,113

GROUP: 2624

FILED: December 6, 2001

EXAMINER: HUNG, YUBIN

FOR: IMAGE CODING/DECODING METHOD, IMAGE CODING APPARATUS AND  
IMAGE DECODING APPARATUS FOR OBTAINING DECODED IMAGES  
HAVING SMALL DISTORTION IN DCT BASED STANDARD  
CODING/DECODING

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

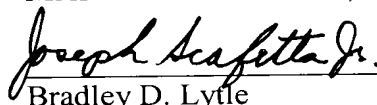
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SIR:

The "Statement of Reasons for Allowance" included on pages 3 and 4 of the Notice of Allowability dated January 6, 2009 characterizes the invention in terms of the steps of method claims 1 and 30 and the elements of apparatus claim 8. The Office Action of September 24, 2008, discusses at page 12 why apparatus claim 28 is allowable. However, nothing is said about why independent claim 16, which recites an image decoder, is allowable. Therefore, the "Statement" is incomplete. Accordingly, the "Statement" is limited to claims 1, 3, 6-8, 11-15 and 28-30 and does not relate to apparatus claims 16 and 19-27.

Respectfully Submitted,

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